ROBERT KIRKMAN LORENZO DE FELICI MATHEUS LOPES

VOID RIVALS

image

#01

ROBERT KIRKMAN
/WRITER/

LORENZO DE FELICI
/ARTIST/

MATHEUS LOPES
/COLORIST/

RUS WOOTON
/LETTERER/

LORENZO DE FELICI

ETHAN YOUNG

MATTEO SCALERA &
MORENO DINISIO

KAREN S DARBOE

JIM CHEUNG &
JAY DAVID RAMOS

DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON &
MIKE SPICER

AINSWORTH LIN

MARIA WOLF &
MIKE SPICER

TRI VUONG

ALEX RIEGEL

MATTHEW ROBERTS
/COVERS/

BIXIE MATHIEU
/EDITOR/

ANDRES JUAREZ
/LOGO & PUBLICATION DESIGN/

JILLIAN CRAB
/PRODUCTION/

FOR SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT: ROBERT KIRKMAN *CHAIRMAN* | DAVID ALPERT *CEO* | SEAN MACKIEWICZ *SVP, PUBLISHER* | ANDRES JUAREZ *CREATIVE DIRECTOR, EDITORIAL* | ARUNE SINGH *DIRECTOR OF BRAND, EDITORIAL* | SHANNON MEEHAN *SENIOR PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER* | ALEX ANTONE *EDITORIAL DIRECTOR* | AMANDA LAFRANCO *EDITOR* | BIXIE MATHIEU *EDITOR* | JILLIAN CRAB *GRAPHIC DESIGNER* | RICHARD MERCADO *PRODUCTION ARTIST* | MORGAN PERRY *BRAND MANAGER, EDITORIAL* | KEVIN BIDES *BRAND COORDINATOR, EDITORIAL* | SARAH CLEMENTS *BRAND COORDINATOR, EDITORIAL* | NIA PHILLIPS *PUBLIC RELATIONS SPECIALIST* | DAN PETERSEN *SR. DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS & EVENTS* | Foreign Rights & Licensing Inquiries: contact@skybound.com | SKYBOUND.COM

FOR IMAGE COMICS, INC: ROBERT KIRKMAN *CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER* | ERIK LARSEN *CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER* | TODD MCFARLANE *PRESIDENT* | MARC SILVESTRI *CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER* | JIM VALENTINO *VICE PRESIDENT* | ERIC STEPHENSON *PUBLISHER / CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER* | NICOLE LAPALME *VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE* | LEANNA CAUNTER *ACCOUNTING ANALYST* | SUE KORPELA *ACCOUNTING & HR MANAGER* | MATT PARKINSON *VICE PRESIDENT OF SALES & PUBLISHING PLANNING* | LORELEI BUNJES *VICE PRESIDENT OF DIGITAL STRATEGY* | DIRK WOOD *DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL SALES & LICENSING* | RYAN BREWER *INTERNATIONAL SALES & LICENSING MANAGER* | ALEX COX *DIRECTOR OF DIRECT MARKET SALES* | CHLOE RAMOS *BOOK MARKET & LIBRARY SALES MANAGER* | EMILIO BAUTISTA *DIGITAL SALES COORDINATOR* | JON SCHLAFFMAN *SPECIALTY SALES COORDINATOR* | KAT SALAZAR *VICE PRESIDENT OF PR & MARKETING* | DEANNA PHELPS *MARKETING DESIGN MANAGER* | DREW FITZGERALD *MARKETING CONTENT ASSOCIATE* | HEATHER DOORNINK *VICE PRESIDENT OF PRODUCTION* | DREW GILL *ART DIRECTOR* | HILARY DILORETO *PRINT MANAGER* | TRICIA RAMOS *TRAFFIC MANAGER* | MELISSA GIFFORD *CONTENT MANAGER* | ERIKA SCHNATZ *SENIOR PRODUCTION ARTIST* | WESLEY GRIFFITH *PRODUCTION ARTIST* | IMAGECOMICS.COM

VOID RIVALS #1. JUNE 2023. PUBLISHED BY IMAGE COMICS, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION:PO BOX 14457, PORTLAND, OR 97293. IMAGE COMICS® AND ITS LOGOS ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS AND COPYRIGHTS OF IMAGE COMICS, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. NO PART OF THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE REPRODUCED OR TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS (EXCEPT FOR SHORT EXCERPTS FOR REVIEW PURPOSES) WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN PERMISSION OF IMAGE COMICS, INC. ALL NAMES, CHARACTERS, EVENTS AND LOCALES IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE ENTIRELY FICTIONAL. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ACTUAL PERSONS (LIVING OR DEAD), EVENTS OR PLACES, WITHOUT SATIRIC INTENT, IS COINCIDENTAL. DIGITAL EDITION.

SKREESH

PILOT? PILOT, CAN YOU HEAR ME? PROXIMITY TO WRECKAGE NO LONGER POSES A DANGER.

SCANNING. SCANNING. MEDIPACK LOCATED.

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, PILOT. BUT I'M GOING TO GET YOU FIXED UP.

TEK

DRAT.

FSST

PILOT, I AM PLEASED TO SEE YOU'RE ALIVE.

WHAT? WHERE? OH... THE CRASH MUST HAVE KNOCKED ME OUT. AFTER ALL THAT, PLEASE... CALL ME **DARAK.**

PROTOCOL STATES I AVOID ADDRESSING YOU BY NAME AS TO NOT ENCOURAGE FAMILIARITY OR RISK FORMING A BOND.

BUDDY, I THINK *PROTOCOL* JUST WENT OUT THE *WINDOW.*

SHIP'S IN PIECES. MISSION WASN'T LONG-TERM... DON'T HAVE MANY RATIONS. AND WHATEVER THERE WAS IS STREWN ACROSS THIS PLANETOID.

OOOH.., LIGHT-HEADED.

SIDE EFFECT OF THE REVIVER. YOUR VITALS ARE OTHERWISE CLEAN.

OKAY... IT'S... STARTING TO PASS.

WAIT...

HANDROID, WHERE *ARE* WE?

WHEN THE ZERTONIAN SHIP ENGAGED YOU, BOTH SHIPS WERE CAUGHT IN THE GRAVITATIONAL PULL OF THE COMET, AND IT APPEARS YOU WERE SLINGSHOTTED INTO AN UNCHARTED QUADRANT.

I'M CURRENTLY TRYING TO CALCULATE POTENTIAL DISTANCE TO THE SACRED RING BASED ON OUR SPEED AND DURATION, BUT THE HIGH DEGREE OF VARIABLES ARE MAKING AN ACCURATE CALCULATION DIFFICULT.

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OUR ZERTONIAN FRIEND MADE THE TRIP WITH US?

EXTREMELY REMOTE.

WELL... THERE'S SOME GOOD NEWS.

NOT EXPECTING A LOT OF THAT.

FOR INSTANCE, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO GET THIS THING FLYING AGAIN.

UNFORTUNATELY, MY READINGS WOULD LEAD ME TO AGREE WITH YOU.

THUNK

VOID RIVALS

KLIK

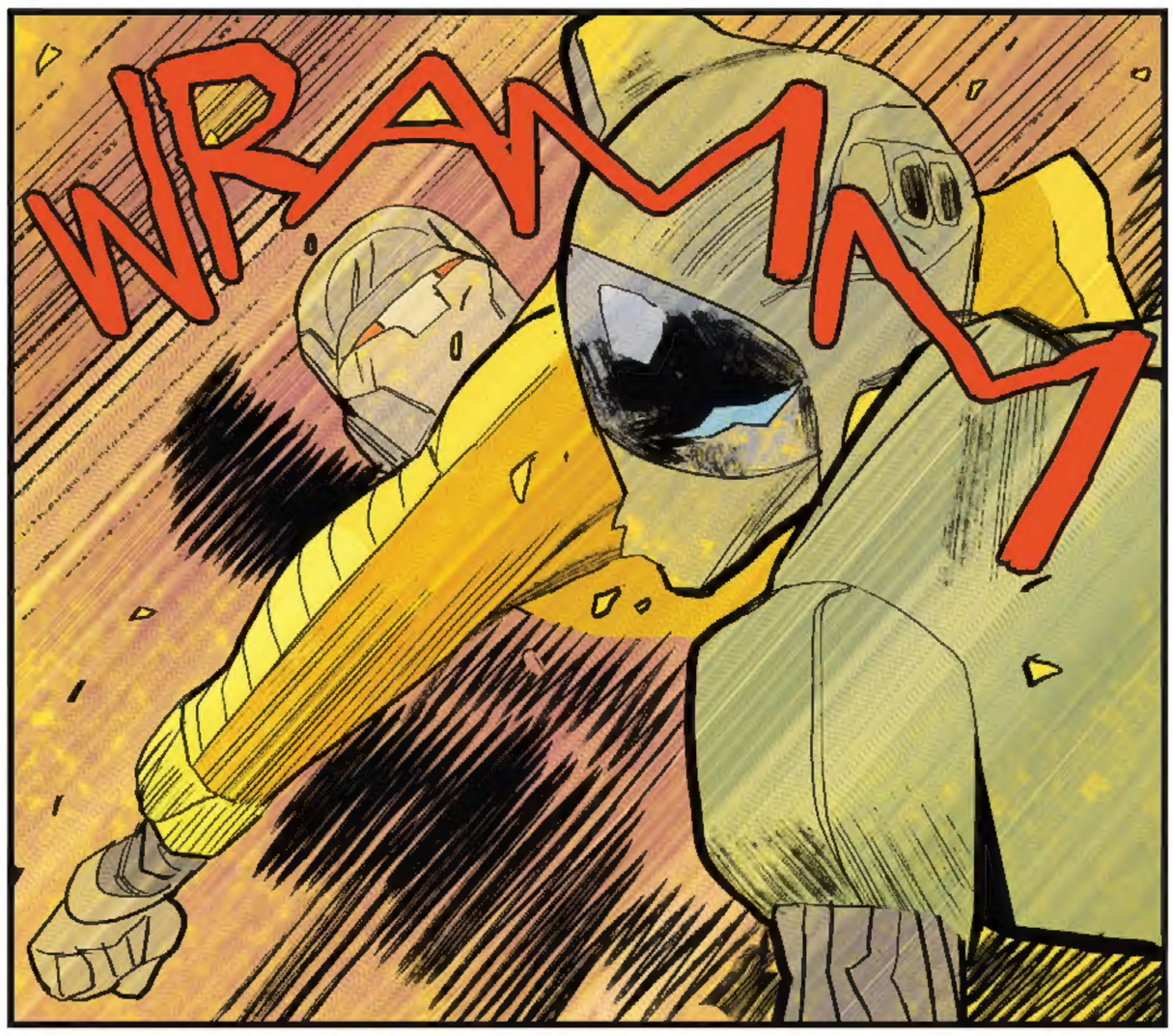
KLIK
KLIK

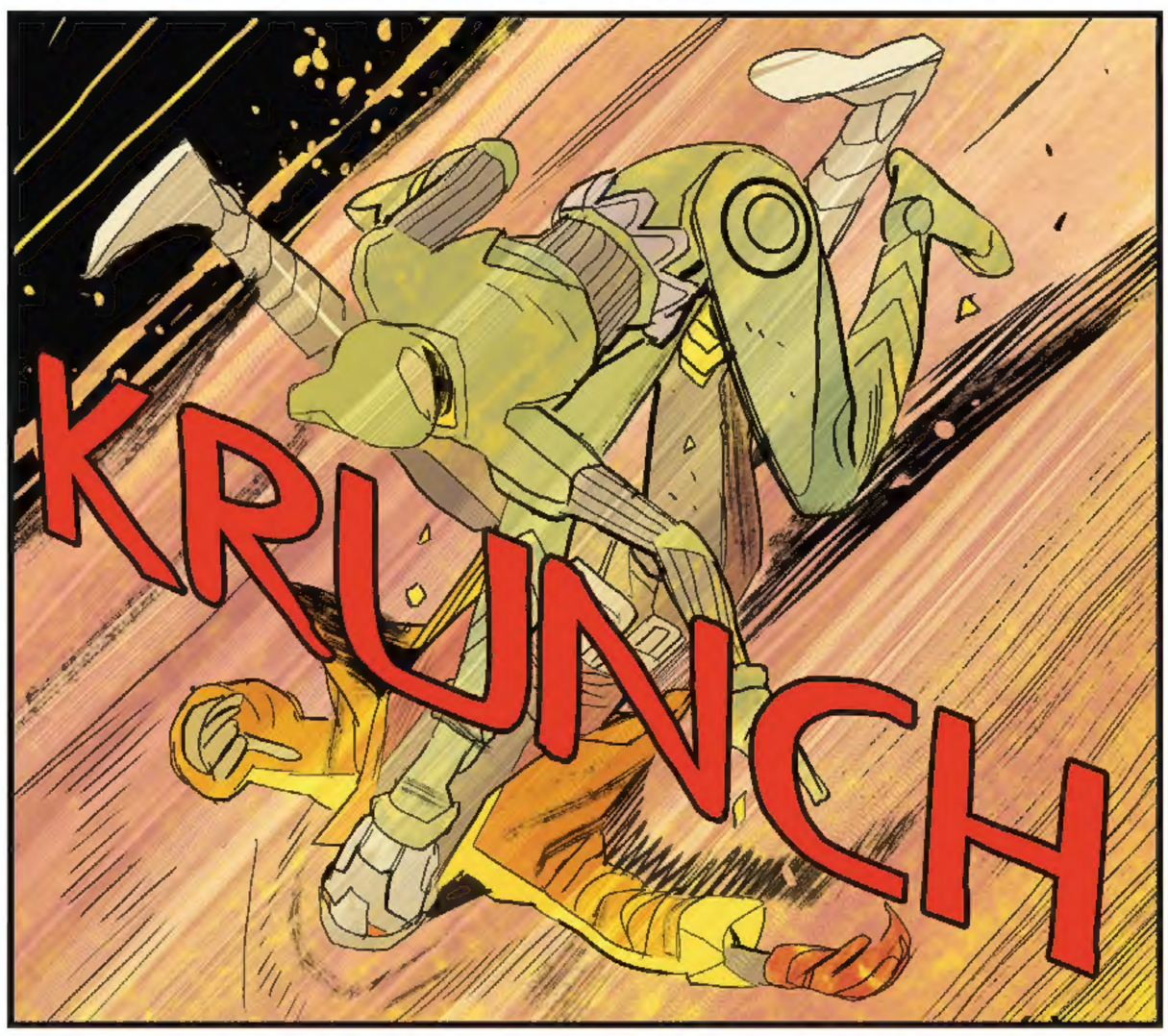
C'MON, C'MON.

HITTING IT WILL NOT REPAIR YOUR BLASTER, AND IT MAY DAMAGE ME.

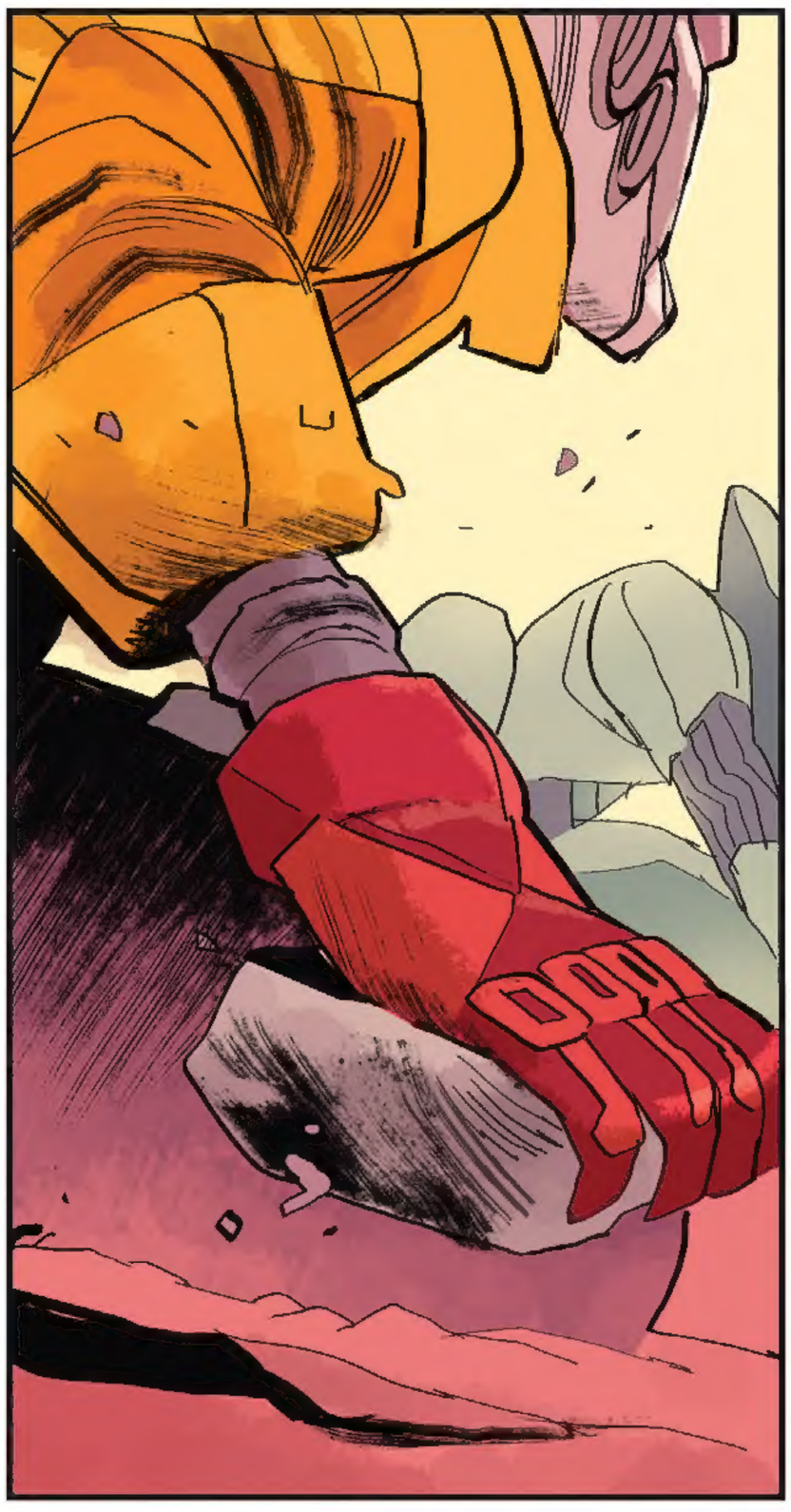
WRAM

WHUDD


WRAM


KRUNCH

WHUDD



PLEASE.

PLEASE?!

ARE YOU BEGGING ME TO SPARE YOU? WOULD ANY OF ***YOUR*** PEOPLE ***EVER*** SPARE MY KIND?

WELL?! ***WOULD YOU?!***

...

PROBABLY NOT.

HUH.

AN HONEST ZERTONIAN...

WHAT ARE THE ODDS OF ***THAT?***

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO KILL ME?

NO.

MY PROGRAM COMPELS ME TO REMIND YOU THAT YOU ARE HONOR BOUND TO SUBDUE EVERY ZERTONIAN YOU ENCOUNTER.

YOUR ACTIONS ARE AKIN TO TREASON.

AH... THE AGORRIAN ***CRUTCH*** SPEAKS. AREN'T MY PEOPLE FORBIDDEN FROM EVEN ***HEARING*** THEM?

DOESN'T THAT MEAN YOU HAVE TO ***KILL*** ME?

SHE IS CORRECT.

HANDROID, SCAN THE WRECKAGE OF HER SHIP. WITH WHAT REMAINS OF BOTH SHIPS, ARE THERE ENOUGH COMPATIBLE PARTS TO MAKE ***ONE*** WORKING SHIP?

HER SHIP HAS SUFFERED LESS DAMAGE THAN YOURS. IT IS THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE THAT THE WRECKAGE OF YOUR SHIP COULD BE USED TO REPAIR HERS.

AND COULD I COMPLETE THESE REPAIRS ON MY OWN?

NO.

IF WE WORK TOGETHER, WE MIGHT JUST SURVIVE THIS.

I'M NOT HONOR BOUND TO DIE ON THIS ROCK.

KROOM

STAY BACK!

THIS ISN'T GOING TO WORK IF WE HAVE TO KEEP LOOKING OVER OUR SHOULDERS.

ARE WE... *GOOD?*

I DON'T KNOW... *ARE WE?*

I WANT TO LIVE. *YOU* WANT TO LIVE. LET'S JUST GET TO WORK.

OKAY.

MIGHT BE MERE MOMENTS AWAY FROM A WORKING ENGINE. IT'S ALARMING HOW LITTLE MODIFICATION IS REQUIRED FOR YOUR AGORRIAN PARTS TO WORK IN MY ZERTONIAN SHIP.

YEAH, THAT'S A REAL HEAD-SCRATCHER.

YOUR *SPIES* MUST HAVE BEEN WORKING *OVERTIME.*

HEY, WAIT! IS THAT AN *INFLUX* CABLE OR *OUTFLUX?*

TLAK

HUH?

VMMMM

VMMM

THAT DOESN'T LOOK SO--

SKRA

OFF ME!

WAIT! I WAS ONLY TRYING TO--

STOP MOVING. YOU'RE ON FIRE!

VOOOSH

MY NAME IS *SOLILA.*

ISN'T IT *FORBIDDEN* FOR YOUR PEOPLE TO REVEAL YOUR NAMES TO AN AGORRIAN? OR IS THAT JUST US?

I'M *DARAK.* LOOK AT US. RISKING *EVERYTHING* TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER.

WHAT MADE YOU SO RECKLESS ALL OF A SUDDEN?

YOU *SAVED* ME.

I'D BE STRANDED HERE *FOREVER* WITHOUT YOUR HELP. BESIDES, YOU SAVED ME, TOO. THANKS.

NOW, LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN SALVAGE FROM--

MY WORD...

THERE'S...

THERE'S NO FIXING *THIS*...

IT'S OVER. THAT'S IT.

WE'RE BOTH *DYING* HERE...

...AND I HAVE *NO WISH* TO DIE WITH AN AGORRIAN.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?! *WAIT!*

LOOKS LIKE IT'S JUST US NOW, FRIEND.

WELL, I'M NOT GIVING UP.

THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

ANALYZING ENGINE...

GIVEN OUR CURRENT RESOURCES, THIS WRECKAGE IS FIFTY-EIGHT PERCENT SALVAGEABLE.

THAT'S WAY BETTER THAN I THOUGHT. NOT NEARLY ENOUGH, BUT STILL BETTER.

YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO ***BELIEVE*** WHAT I FOUND!

COME ON, IF WE LEAVE NOW, WE'LL REACH IT BY NEXT CYCLE.

OH, WOW.

THIS IS... *AMAZING.*

THIS DESIGN MATCHES NOTHING IN MY DATABASE. IT IS OF NEITHER AGORRIAN NOR ZERTONIAN ORIGIN.

ANY CLUE ON HOW LONG IT'S BEEN HERE?

WHO CARES? IT'S A *SHIP.* LET'S SEE IF IT WORKS.

I'M DETECTING SOME FORM OF POWER CELL THAT SHOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO AN ENERGY TRANSFER.

REGARDLESS, LET'S KEEP IT TO A ***MINIMUM.*** WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF ENERGY TO SPARE.

I'LL GIVE IT JUST ENOUGH FOR US TO DETECT ANY WORKING SYSTEMS.

HERE GOES NOTHING.

VMMMV

THIS THING COULD BE THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD FOR ALL WE KNOW. OUR BEST BET IS STRIPPING IT FOR MATERIALS.

WAIT, WHAT IS--

CH-CHK

C-C-CHU-CHU-CHIK-CHU

WHERE?

WHERE AM I?

WHAT IS THAT?

DO NOT BE AFRAID, I MEAN YOU NO HARM. I'M **JETFIRE**, A CYBERTRONIAN SCIENTIST. CAN YOU PLEASE TELL ME HOW LONG I'VE BEEN HERE?

UM... UH...

NO, SORRY... WE CAN'T.

MY WORD... I'M DETECTING SIGNIFICANT MICROSCOPIC FUNGAL GROWTH IN AN ATMOSPHERE ALMOST DEVOID OF MOISTURE.

AND IS THAT... **WIND EROSION?** BUT THAT WOULD MEAN I'VE BEEN STRANDED HERE FOR... **MILLIONS** OF...

...

CYBERTRON... AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...

I'M SORRY. I HAVE TO GET HOME.

CH-CH!

CHI-CHU-CHIK

CHU-CH!

WOOSH

NO--
WAIT--!

WHY DON'T YOU STOP WASTING YOUR TIME AND START COMING TO GRIPS WITH REALITY? WE'RE ***NEVER*** LEAVING THIS PLANETOID.

WE'RE ***BOTH*** GOING TO DIE HERE.

MAYBE NOT.

WE SAW A LIFEFORM ***TURN INTO*** A VEHICLE. MAYBE IT'S POSSIBLE FOR US TO DO THE SAME?

THE COMPONENTS IN OUR ***FLIGHT ARMOR*** MAY BE ALL THAT'S NEEDED TO TURN THIS WRECKAGE INTO A SUITABLE SPACECRAFT.

THIS PLANETOID HAS A BREATHABLE ATMOSPHERE. WE CAN SURVIVE WITHOUT THEM. WE'LL BE EXPOSED TO MORE SOLAR RADIATION, BUT AS LONG AS WE COMPLETE THE VEHICLE QUICKLY, WE SHOULD BE FINE.

ARE YOU ACTUALLY SUGGESTING WE TAKE OUR HELMETS OFF? FORGETTING HOW MANY ***SACRED DECREES*** THAT BREAKS... I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL BE ABLE TO WORK WITH YOU AFTER SEEING YOUR HIDEOUS AGORRIAN FACE.

I'M AFRAID YOU'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO FIND A WAY.

I'D RATHER LOOK AT YOUR MISSHAPEN ZERTONIAN FACE THAN... DIE.

I AM PROGRAMED TO ADAMANTLY ADVISE AGAINST THIS.

WE'RE THE... SAME?

IT'S JUST LIKE MY *VISION.*

WHAT
VISION?

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO VOIDRIVALS@SKYBOUND.COM

What is this? Is it the coolest thing ever? Or the coolest thing EVER?

I think it's the latter.

Okay, secret's out, VOID RIVALS takes place in the new Energon Universe? What is that, you say? Why it's a shared universe that will include an assortment of our upcoming Transformers and G.I. Joe comics from Skybound, as well as a new world of characters created by yours truly and the esteemed Lorenzo De Felici. How cool is that?

Oh, I already said.

Anyway, I'm excited. I'm hoping it comes through in my writing. I'm a HUGE fan of Transformers and G.I. Joe and everything Hasbro has done with them over the last few decades. I was born in 1978, so this stuff really hit the sweet spot for me. I was 8 years old in 1986 when I went to the theater and (spoiler alert) watched Optimus Prime die. You could almost say it was a key inspirational moment in my life that led to INVINCIBLE, THE WALKING DEAD, and everything in-between. It's definitely something that led to me trying to drive every story I write to a surprising, unexpected moment.

So to be here now working with Lorenzo to create a corner of a new universe featuring these characters is a real thrill for me. I'm so excited to see Zertonians and Agorians being mentioned alongside Cybertronians and Quintessons. I can't wait for you all to see how Duke, Scarlett, Cobra Commander, and Destro weave into this world seamlessly.

As this series progresses, you'll get to see the Sacred Ring and discover a whole new cast of characters that resides there... as well as a ton of familiar faces that will crop up along the way when you least expect it.

This series continues my goal of bringing new ideas into this world, while also allowing me to play in a sandbox I've loved for some many years. I'm typing this in an office surrounded by Transformers and G.I. Joe statues, toys, posters, comics, etc. I really can't look in a direction and not see something from one of those two brilliant concepts. And hopefully, at some point in the future, we'll get to see Darak and Solila standing alongside them.

So buckle up for a wild ride, we're only scratching the surface of all the awesome things that are in store for you. Thanks for jumping into this on the ground floor and, man, oh man... I can't wait to see more of our plans unfold and get to share what we have in store with you.

Woo!!

-Robert Kirkman

Licensed by:

Hasbro

Special thanks to Hasbro's Michael Kelly, Ed Lane, Linda Lee & Tayla Reo for their invaluable assistance.

VOID RIVALS and all related characters are trademarks of Hasbro and are used with permission. © 2023 Hasbro. All Rights Reserved. Licensed by Hasbro.

THE ENERGON UNIVERSE HAS ARRIVED

ROBERT KIRKMAN'S ALL-NEW **TRANSFORMERS** AND **G.I. JOE** SHARED UNIVERSE CONTINUES EVERY MONTH IN

VOID RIVALS

AND THESE UPCOMING RELEASES!

PRE-ORDER WITH YOUR LOCAL COMIC SHOP NOW!

ON SALE JULY 19

Licensed by: Hasbro

skybound.com | @skyboundent | @skyboundent

VOID RIVALS, THE TRANSFORMERS, G.I. JOE and all related characters are trademarks of Hasbro and are used with permission. © 2023 Hasbro. All rights reserved. SKYBOUND and all related images are owned by Skybound, LLC. IMAGE COMICS and all related images are owned by Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

TRANSFORMERS #1

BY DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON | OCTOBER 2023

DUKE #1

BY JOSHUA WILLIAMSON & TOM REILLY

DECEMBER 2023

COBRA COMMANDER #1

BY JOSHUA WILLIAMSON & ANDREA MILANA

JANUARY 2024

RATED **T** / TEEN